

MELISSA GARCIA-LAMARCA

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Summary of Experience

- Fifteen years' experience related to urban transformation and sustainability, from research, facilitation and teaching to project and indicator development, coordination and reporting.
- Excellent research, communication, organisation, capacity building and problem-solving skills.
- Bilingual English-Spanish, good French and Catalan. Very strong academic and non-academic writing.
- Highly effective working both individually and in a team. Dynamic, driven and initiative taking.

Education

PhD in Human Geography

University of Manchester, Manchester, UK. June 2016.

Funded by Sustainable Consumption Institute and UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). European Network of Political Ecology Associate Fellow (ENTITLE FP7). Thesis title: (De)mortgaging lives: financialisation, biopolitics and political subjectivation in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area.

MSc Development Planning, Building and Urban Design in Development (Distinction)

University College London, London, England. November 2009. Commonwealth Scholar.

Graduate Diploma, Community Economic Development CGPA 3.94 de 4.0.

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. September 2003.

BA Geography, Economics and International Development (Great Distinction)

McGill University, Montreal, Canada. September 2001.

Study abroad 1999-2000 at Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

International Baccalaureate (IB) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), Greengates School, Mexico City, June 1997 & 1995.

Experience

Barcelona September 2016- present	Postdoctoral researcher, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researcher at the Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability in a European Research Project investigating the social and racial impacts of urban greening.• Teaching PhD course on urban geography, planning and development.
London January-March 2012	Teaching Fellow, Development Planning Unit, University College London <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redesigned Term 2 of Transforming Local Areas: Urban Design in Development core module for MSc degree in collaboration with course director towards multi-disciplinary critical approach to urban design as the political economy of space.• Taught 5 of 9 sessions and marked student projects.• Coordinated students' critical urban analysis field work in Elephant and Castle.• Supervised two MSc theses.
Member Fall 2010 - present (Last contract: April 2012) Montreal, Canada Full-time worker	Member, Sustainability Solutions Group Workers Cooperative <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founder and member of a workers coop that develops dynamic strategies for ecologically, socially and economically responsible decision-making and action.• Recent contracts: Delivered sustainable community planning training in Spanish on behalf of Canadian government's department of housing (CMHC) at a Construction Fair in Havana, Cuba (April 2012); via webinar for a green building conference in Costa Rica (Feb 2012); and a week-long training session with a delegation from the

<p>member (Director): May 2007 to August 2008</p> <p>Founder in June 2003</p>	<p>Mexican government on community revitalisation, community participation, waste management and sustainable energy planning in Ottawa and Montreal (Nov 2010).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected projects from 2007-2008 include: research and development of local food guide for BC municipalities; strategic sustainability plan development for Concordia University; green building research for Canadian government; footprint auditor for Discovery Channel's Wa\$ted television series; and facilitation of CMHC's Equilibrium sustainable housing competition selection process.
<p>Detroit, São Paulo/Curitiba & Hanoi. Fall 2011</p> <p>NYC, Delhi, Dakar & Buenos Aires. Spring 2011</p>	<p>Travelling Faculty, Cities in the 21st Century, International Honors Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught Urban Politics and Development and co-taught Contemporary Urban Issues to 35 third-year undergrad students during an experiential learning course, undertaking a comparative analysis of cities around the world (5 weeks in each international city). Creating and facilitating learning cycles on a variety of urban issues to connect concepts (neoliberalism, development, democracy and governance) to practice.
<p>London & Istanbul May 2010</p>	<p>Post-graduate course assistant, University College London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracted as mentor for MSc Urban Development Planning students during field studies to diagnose informal settlements and develop proposals for more just urban transformations during 2 weeks in London and 2.5 weeks in Istanbul.
<p>Mumbai, India May 2009</p>	<p>Team facilitator, Dharavi: a case of contested urbanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated 16-person MSc to plan and effectively collaborate in research on the connections between livelihoods, space and policy in two community-led slum rehabilitation projects, in collaboration with a local NGO.
<p>Montreal, Canada January to May 2008</p>	<p>Part-time professor, Concordia University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught 32 students in a third-year undergraduate Sustainable University Campus course, in the Department of Geography, Planning & the Environment.
<p>Montreal June 2004 to May 2007</p>	<p>Sustainability Coordinator, Concordia University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated integration and institutionalisation of sustainability across all parts of the university in the first position of its kind in the province of Quebec. Duties included project creation and management (sustainable transportation, rooftop greenhouse, waste management, staff engagement), internal and external partnerships, overseeing staff and coordinating communications and planning for Sustainable Concordia's activities.
<p>Montreal June 2002 to May 2004</p>	<p>Sustainability Auditor and Volunteer, Sustainable Concordia Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasks included researching, interviewing and data-gathering for most extensive university sustainability audit to date in Canada, coordinating 100+ student for-credit and volunteer projects, fundraising, organisational development of student group, fostering links with university departments to institutionalise project on various levels.
<p>Buenos Aires, Argentina September 2001 to March 2002</p>	<p>Project Assistant at FARN on contract from IISD-CIDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through the International Institute for Sustainable Development's internship programme. Designed and created web pages for FARN. Brainstormed, researched and wrote on-line module on public participation mechanisms in South American trade regimes.
<p>Montreal, Canada February to May 2001</p>	<p>Research Assistant, McGill School of Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched and documented environmental indicator initiatives nationally and internationally. Produced extensive literature review on environment and security research in preparation for hiring new faculty to develop this work in the School.

Canberra, Australia March to June 2000	Public Policy Internship, Environment Australia, Environmental Economics Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed potential contribution of a game theory-based 'social contract' approach to human well being through a model (Excel) and interdisciplinary literature review. Produced an 8000-word research paper that was awarded the best mark out of 15 interns undertaking public policy internships in Canberra.
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Languages

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Spanish	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
French	Good	Good	Fair
Catalan	Fair	Good	Basic

Academic publications

García-Lamarca, M. (in press). From occupying plazas to recuperating housing: Insurgent practices in Spain. *International Journal for Urban and Regional Research*.

Andreucci, D., García-Lamarca, M., Wedekind, J. and E. Swyngedouw. 2017. "Value Grabbing": A Political Ecology of Rent. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10455752.2016.1278027>.

García-Lamarca, M. and Kaika, M. 2016. "Mortgaged Lives": the biopolitics of debt and homeownership in Spain". *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* doi: 10.1111/tran.12126

García-Lamarca, M. (under review). Recuperating the public through housing rights struggles in Spain. In Hou, J. and Knierbein, S. *City Unsilenced: Urban Resistance and Public Space in the Age of Shrinking Democracy*. New York, Taylor & Francis.

García-Lamarca, M. (2015). "Insurgent acts of being-in-common and housing in Spain: making urban commons?" In M. Dellenbaugh, M. Kip, M. Bieniok, A.K. Müller and M. Schwegmann, eds. *Urban Commons: Moving Beyond State and Market*. Berlin, Basel: Birkhäuser.

Boano, C., García Lamarca, M. and Wade, A. (2014). Deconstructing and recalibrating urban design in the Global South. In M. Carmona, ed. *Explorations in Urban Design: An Urban Design Research Primer*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Boano, C., García Lamarca, M. and Hunter, W. (2013). 'Mega-projects and resistances in contested urbanism: reclaiming the right to the city in Dharavi', *Les Cahiers d'Architecture, La Cambre-Horta N°9*. The City as a Common Good: Urban Planning and the Right to the City.

Boano, C., García Lamarca, M. and Hunter, W. (2011). The Frontlines of Contested Urbanism: Mega-projects and Mega-resistances in Dharavi. *Journal of Developing Societies*, 27(3-4): 295-326.

García Lamarca, M. (2010). Institutionalising insurgent claims...Towards 'good' planning? *Journal of Landscape Studies*, 3: 77-86.

Non-academic writing

- eldiario.es, El derecho a la vivienda: ¿el derecho a vivir endeudado o como un inquilino precario? Noviembre 2016.
- Geography Directions blog. Mortgaged lives: when Lives become numbers. June 2016.
- ROARMAG.org. Collaborative translation of article by Gemma Garcia and Marc Font (La Directa) with Desiree Fields. "Resisting the next wave of real estate speculation in Spain" October 2015.
- *El Diagonal*. Los despojos del tsunami urbanizador. November 2014.
- *New Internationalist*. Resisting evictions Spanish style. April 2013.
- ENTITLEblog, collaborative blog on political ecology. Editor and contributor. <http://entitleblog.org/>
- Polis, collaborative blog on cities. Regular writer from 2010-2012, over 60 posts: www.thepolisblog.org

Research funding and awards

- ESRC North West Doctoral Training Centre funding (NWDTC) and Sustainable Consumption Institute Centre (SCI) funding (2012-2015)
- Manchester Doctoral College Postgraduate Research Conference Fund (2015)
- Best conference paper, Association of European Planning Schools (AESOP) YA conference (2014)
- University of Manchester Geography Conference support fund (2014)
- First year PhD poster prize, School of Environment and Development (2013)
- University of Manchester fieldwork bursary (2013)
- Commonwealth Scholar (2008-2009)
- Force AVENIR Personnalité finalist, Quebec (2004)

Recent conferences and workshops

Session co-organiser and presenter:

---International Conference of Critical Geography (ICCG), Ramallah, Palestine. Session title: Stories of dispossession, re-appropriation of life and political struggle in Southern Europe. Paper: "From financial subject to political subject? Unpacking struggles to demortgage life in Spain." (July 2015)

---Association of American Geographers (AAG), Chicago. Session title: "Debt, financialisation and subjectivation: struggles for (re)appropriation." Paper: "From financial subject to political subject? Unpacking struggles to demortgage life in Spain." (April 2015)

---Political Studies Association (PSA) Rebels and Radicals conference, Manchester. Panel title "Voice and space in democracy in southern Europe" and paper title "From occupying plazas to recuperating housing: Insurgent practices in Spain" (April 2014)

Presenter:

- Art and Politics reloaded? The Right to the City. Lisbon. Presentation (June 2016)
- Young Academics Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Cities that Talk conference, Gothenburg, Sweden. Paper presentation "From occupying plazas to recuperating housing: Insurgent practices in Spain". Best paper prize (March 2014)
- Urban Commons Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. Paper presentation "Insurgent practices and housing in Spain: making urban commons?" (Sept 2013)
- The Commons: in what state? University of Manchester. Presentation title "Insurgent practices and housing in Spain: making urban commons?" (June 2013)
- Stadkolloquium, UCL, London. Presentation title "Re-thinking urban economies: Exploring the city as common(s)" (March 2013)